

ALABAMA WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

Blanche Dean Chapter

NEXT MEETING

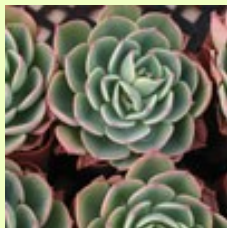
Monday, September 13th

at BBG meet us at 7 PM

Join Us for our next meeting at BBG...Succulents

Michelle Reynolds from Ruffner Mountain will present a program on Succulents: Native to the Americas from tropical to subtropical, to alpine to our 4 deserts, to Alabama glades and suggestions for your garden. Meeting will be held at the usual room at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. We will begin at 7 PM please join us!

Debra Lee Baldwin, garden photojournalist and author of the newly released "Succulent Container Gardens," recently said "There is a whole new type of gardener now. They have a finer and greater appreciation of foliage over flowers." She said in addition, "They have a drought-fueled interest. Succulents are the closest thing to plastic in the plant world. They don't really need to be pruned or deadheaded and they're great for people who travel."



Echeveria glauca

Michelle Reynolds

Michelle Reynolds serves as the education committee chair on the board of directors at Ruffner Mountain Nature Center. She has spent the last two years spearheading a native plant restoration project and environmental education garden around the newly constructed Center. In these pro-

jects, creek beds and swales efficiently utilize roof water run off, and a rain garden holds and utilizes parking lot storm water. The rain garden is part of a larger Integrated Environmental Education Garden plan to enhance Ruffner Mountain Nature Center's campus and its programming.

When she is not working on the gardens at Ruffner Mountain, she is designing and making slipcovers in a studio behind her house. Lately, her business (Coverings) has been taking a back seat to her more naturalist leanings.

Calendar for 2010



Ruffner Mountain Nature Center is a 1,011 acres (4 km²) nature preserve located in the eastern portions of Birmingham, Alabama, near the neighboring suburb of Irondale. The preserve includes a visitor center containing native Alabama animals including raptors, snakes, turtles and owls. The Ruffner Mountain area was home to iron ore mines and stone quarries, supplying the area's steel mills. When the mines played out in the 1950s, nature reclaimed the area. The preserve contains 11 miles (18 km) of hiking trails.

**October 9,
2010
@9:00AM-
Field Trip to
see fall
wildflowers
in Ruffner
Mountain's
quarry**

- **Monday, Sept. 13, 2010 – Meeting at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens- 7:00PM- Program by Michelle Reynolds – Succulents: Native to the Americas from tropical to subtropical, to alpine to our 4 deserts, to Alabama glades and suggestions for your garden.**



Michelle Reynolds will be our September speaker!

- **Saturday, October 9, 2010 @9:00AM-Field Trip to see fall wildflowers in Ruffner Mountain's quarry-Michelle Reynolds leading-more info to come later. . Directions:** Located just minutes from the heart of Downtown Birmingham, Ruffner Mountain has easy access from north, south, east or west from the interconnecting interstate system. From Interstate I-59, North or South bound, take Exit #132 at First Avenue North. At the end of the exit ramp, bear to the right onto 1st Ave. Go to the first traffic light at 83rd Street and take a right. You will go back under the interstate and at the first Stop Sign at 2nd Ave. South take a right. Go two blocks and take a left on 81st Street South.
- **Monday, Nov.1, 2010- Meeting at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens- 7:00PM- Program by Bob Tate – Where in the world has he been?**

Saturday, September 18th at 9AM - Ken Wills (President, Moss Rock Preserve) will be our guide. We'll meet at the parking area at the roundabout next to the town square on Preserve Parkway. The Moss Rock Preserve Glade is a variant of the Little River Canyon Sandstone Glade. On this large sloping rock outcrop are shallow pockets of soil where moss and lichens serve as the base of vegetation "islands." The islands harbor rare species like Nutall's Rayless Goldenrod (*Bigelovia nutallii*), Fine-leaved Coreopsis (*Coreopsis pulchra*), Small-headed Blazing Star (*Liatris microcephala*) and Menge's Fameflower (*Talinum mengesii*). We should catch the *Liatris* and the *Bigelovia* blooming on our field trip. Long-leaf Pine trees (which were once the dominant trees in the forest) grow around the glade, and in a bonsai form in the glade, so you get a sense of what a longleaf forest was like. Also, there are waterfalls along a beautiful creek, large boulders we will walk through to get to the glade, and several other areas we can explore during the morning before either picnicking or going to a nearby restaurant for lunch. Moss Rock Preserve is a 250 acre oasis in the middle of a fast encroaching development. Come see the amazing biodiversity this special place holds and hear from a Friend of Moss Rock Preserve what we can do to keep it that way! For more information on the Moss Rock Preserve: <http://www.hooveral.org/Default.asp?ID=718>

MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2010



Broad Leaved Willow Herbs

New Officers !
Marty Schulman has agreed to be the vice president in charge of programs and Michelle Reynolds has agreed to be the vice president in charge of field trips . We appreciate their efforts and time! :-)

Can you name this Antarctica wildflower?



The Society met as scheduled at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. As was the case last month, President L. Sherk was unable to be present secondary to employment demands. M. Schulman again assumed the leadership task. Business commenced at 7:00 p.m.

Pre-presentation items of interest included: The Garden (BBG) now has a new curator for the Kaul Wildflower Garden, John Manion. Nancy Cobb, of the AWS Tuscaloosa chapter, is seeking assistance with “cleaning a garden” in the Opelika area. A new publication on the subject of butterflies is soon to be available to the public. Dr. Ellen McLaughlin, of the Samford after Sundown continuing education program, will soon be offering spring courses on tree identification and the forest floor.

The amount of our financial fund, per Treasurer Maryalys Griffis, is \$1586.64.

Our enlightening presentation was entitled “Antarctica: A Personal Encounter With The White Continent”. The speaker was James Lowery, a retired UAB administrator and “amateur scientist”. He is a member of nine environmental and science-related Boards of Directors, being an officer on five.

Antarctica is actually larger than the U.S. and Europe combined! The sea currents are exceedingly strong as there is no land mass to slow them. Icebergs and glaciers are abundant. The same can be said for penguins. Albatrosses and petrels routinely fly behind ships. The albatross seldom lands on water and rarely goes to land. He utilizes a technique called “dynamic soaring”, not flapping his

wings. This saves enormous energy. There is no fear of humans among the animal population.

As concerns the animals, much was presented. Various breeds of birds, in addition to the albatrosses and petrels, are also plentiful. The skua is one which attacks small penguins. Another one of interest is the cormorant.

Whales are another group which is abundant. The humpback, when seen with his tail in the air, is going deep to feed. He will then remain below the water surface for a long period of time.

A season of presentations could be held solely on the subject of the penguins. There are several breeds, among them the gentoo, the adelic, the chinstrap, and the brush-tail. Each and every one has a different sound! They are extremely curious. A common food is krill, a small shrimp. The leopard seal is their largest on-water predator.

Surprisingly, there are no crabs in Antarctica!

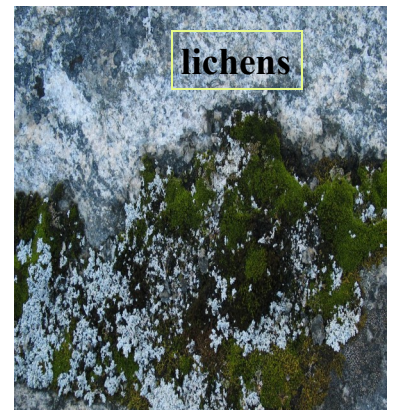
The saga of plant life is not as colorful as that of the animals. In the area of the Palmer Research Station, the pearlwort is the only plant, although lichens are plentiful.

It is important to know that the weather changes QUICKLY, ever so quickly! Winds are very strong, especially those called “katabatic”, influenced by their travels over mountains. Mountains, too, are so very numerous.

Space prohibits mention of so much more of Antarctica. We will end with a very surprising fact, that being that Charles Darwin consumed appreciably more study time in Antarctica than he did in the Galapagos!

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. Following a summer hiatus from the heat, we will reconvene in the early fall.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles E. Gleaton, Recorder



Please join us September 13 - 7PM at the BBG to learn about Succulents

President - Linda Sherk
Vice President in charge of programs - Marty Schulman
Vice President in charge of field trips, Michelle Reynolds
Treasurer - Maryalys Griffis
Editor/Web Site - Karen Hutchinson

Welcome to our new member, John Manion the new curator of the Kaul Wildflower Garden.

We're on the WEB!
alabamawildflower.org



The concentrated extract of the leaves of the Ginkgo tree has recently become a very popular phytomedicine for cerebral insufficiency. Ginkgo biloba extract appears to be effective, especially in geriatric patients, against ailments associated with a diminished blood flow in the brain such as memory loss, absentmindedness, anxiety, dizziness, headache, depression, confusion, and other ailments. These conditions often respond to the vasodilation and improved blood flow induced by the Ginkgo extract. The active constituents in ginkgo, which are thought to be flavone glycosides and terpenoids, inhibit the activity of the platelet activating factor. There does not appear to be any significant side effects from using Ginkgo biloba.

Saturday, September 4:

Wild South/Fresh Air Family [hike for kids and families](#) in the Bankhead National Forest. Payne Creek and the Sipsey River. Sign up in advance by contacting Janice Barrett at janice@wildsouth.org This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it or 256-974-6166

Leader: Janice Barrett
Distance: Part 1 (Payne Creek) - 1 mile
Part 2 (Sipsey River) 3/4 mile
Rating: Moderately easy
Appropriate for all ages

LIKE CLEAN DRINKING WATER? THEN HELP SWEETWATER BREWING COMPANY SAVE THE BLACK WARRIOR!

Annual Campaign with Black Warrior Riverkeeper throughout September in Tuscaloosa and Birmingham

How can you get involved? Simply visit your favorite local watering holes in September and purchase paper fish for \$1, \$5 or \$10, or a custom-made Save the Black Warrior t-shirt, to help raise awareness and much-needed cash for the river. To find a complete list of establishments involved in this effort and other ways to help, please visit www.savetheblackwarrior.com

Non Profit - Medicinal Plant Growers Association

The next meeting of the Alabama Medicinal Plant Growers Association will be held Saturday, September 11, 2010 at 207 Comer Hall on the campus of Auburn University. In addition to presentations on raising medicinal plants an annual business meeting will be held. All members are encouraged to attend to help shape the direction of AMPGA for the coming year. Membership is \$30 per year. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. Those interested in becoming members can stop by the AMPGA website, call 205-540-8215 or email goey@ampga.org .